

KENTUCKY TALKING BOOK LIBRARY NEWS, SUMMER 2014

Madeline Abramson Records a Talking Book

Madeline Abramson, wife of Lieutenant Governor Jerry Abramson, recently volunteered her time and voice to record a children's book for KTBL. Mrs. Abramson recorded *A Pocketful of Cricket* by Kentucky author Rebecca Caudill, a Caldecott Honor Book from 1964.



"Reading is one of life's most treasured and simplest pleasures," Mrs. Abramson said. "That's why I'm so happy to support the Talking Book Library and open the world of books to people who might not otherwise have a chance to experience these stories."

KTBL Branch Manager Barbara Penegor praised her contribution: "We really appreciate Mrs. Abramson taking the time to help us provide a classic children's book that otherwise would not be accessible to our readers. She has been active in the arts, education, and children's issues, and we felt she would enjoy this experience in addition to helping a good cause."

People in the Frankfort area who are interested in volunteering may contact KTBL at 1-800-372-2968 for more information. Volunteers start by training to review and edit raw recordings, then monitor recording sessions, and then may audition to narrate.

KTBL Budget Update

The staff of the Kentucky Talking Book Library would like to offer sincere thanks for our patrons' overwhelming response to our request for support. In May, KTBL sent patrons a brief newsletter informing them of a threat to funding for our program. At the time, the proposed budget eliminated federal funding for the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which provides grants to many libraries across the country. This grant provides most of the funding to operate the Kentucky Talking Book Library, and it is doubtful the program could continue without it.

While a complete budget for the 2015 federal fiscal year will not be passed until October 1, Kentucky's representatives and senators report that full LSTA funding has been restored to a new budget proposal. This may not have been possible without your action. We heard from many of you across the state who called, wrote letters, e-mailed, or used social media to alert our Congressional

representatives of the urgent need for federal funding for Talking Books and Braille in Kentucky. In these times of austerity, this may not be the last time we will face this kind of challenge—your continued support and advocacy will remain vital.

In addition to federal and state funding, the Kentucky Talking Book Library relies on donations from its supporters for a variety of purposes, such as duplicating digital books, replacing specialty equipment, and performing outreach. Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution to our library; no amount is too small. You might even consider us in your estate planning. Checks or money-orders can be mailed to: Kentucky Talking Book Library, PO Box 537, Frankfort, KY 40602. You will receive a thank-you letter you can use as a tax receipt.

Recording Program Volunteer Wins Award

Joyce Honaker recently received the Exceptional Service Award from the Franklin County chapter of the American Red Cross in honor of her work with the KTBL recording program. Joyce has volunteered as a narrator since the recording program's inception in 1978, and she has completed 63 recordings in a variety of genres. In 2013, we asked her to take a hiatus from narrating to help with a backlog of recordings that needed to be proofread—a new task that involved learning to use a special editing program and taking meticulous notes on elements to re-record for corrections. Her work contributed to cutting our backlog by two thirds in the past year. We can count on Joyce's outstanding dedication to make Kentucky-related books available to our patrons. Congrats on her much deserved award!

BARD Mobile Tip – Background Playback

Patrons who use the BARD Mobile app to download books on the iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch can customize audio settings to make the app easier to use. To change the default settings on the app: open BARD Mobile, select the settings tab, then select 'Audio settings'. We'd like to highlight one particular audio setting you might not know about—Background Playback.

Background Playback allows you to listen to books while using other apps or after your device goes into sleep mode (meaning the screen is darkened, but you can still hear audio). This is an excellent way to save battery life. To use this feature, go to Audio settings and change the toggle switch for Background Playback to 'On'. If you have questions about any BARD Mobile feature, please contact KTBL or refer to the BARD Mobile user guide—the link is on the bookshelf tab under 'Help'.

Coming Soon—US Currency Readers

As many of you well know, it is difficult—if not impossible—to tell the denomination of paper money when you cannot see it. A \$1 bill feels the same as a \$100 bill. The US Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) is planning a currency redesign that will add a tactile feature and high contrast numerals so blind and visually impaired individuals can more easily read currency denominations. Until this new currency becomes a reality, the Bureau will provide a free currency reader to blind and visually impaired U.S. citizens.

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing will begin distributing the free iBill® Talking Banknote Identifier in a joint pilot program with the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS). The iBill® is a small electronic device that will easily fit in your pocket, purse, or on a keychain. Registered Talking Book users may pre-order an iBill® reader by calling KTBL at 1-800-372-2968. KTBL will forward your request to the BEP. These currency readers will not be available to others until January 1, 2015.

In the meantime, there are existing smartphone apps that can identify currency denominations. The EyeNote® is a free app from the Apple app store for iOS devices. The Ideal® Currency Identifier is a similar free app for Android devices available from Google Play. For more information on currency readers, visit the BEP website at <http://www.moneyfactory.gov/uscurrencyreaderpgm.html>.

Kentucky Books 2014

These books were produced by KTBL staff and volunteers during the past year. To order, call KTBL at 1-800-372-2968 or (502) 564-8300 ext 276; e-mail ktbl.mail@ky.gov; or mail a list to PO Box 537, Frankfort, KY 40602.

NON-FICTION

□ DKY 2954 Something's Rising: Appalachians Fighting Mountaintop Removal by Silas House and Jason Howard; narrated by John David Semones – Oral histories from people negatively affected by this form of coal mining, including folk singer Jean Ritchie & country music star Kathy Mattea. 2009. 10 hrs, 1 min.

□ DKY 3015 Big Bone Lick: The Cradle of American Paleontology by Stanley Hedeon; narrated by Bill Van Arsdall – Natural historian describes Big Bone Lick from its geological formation forward, explaining the site's attraction to animals, tribespeople, explorers, scientists, and even presidents. 2008. 4 hrs, 18 min.

□ DKY 3048 Wicked Newport: Kentucky's Sin City by Dr. Thomas Barker, Dr. Gary W. Potter, & Jenna Meglen; narrated by John David Semones – Controlled by the mob and fueled by government corruption, Newport became a notorious

center of gambling and prostitution throughout the 19th and 20th centuries—before Las Vegas. 2008. 4 hrs, 25 min.

□ DKY 3062 Josie Underwood's Civil War Diary edited by Nancy Disher Baird; narrated by Lynda Sherrard – Underwood, an outspoken member of a prominent Bowling Green family, was 21 when the Civil War began. Her diary depicts the Union and Confederate tensions in her strategically critical city, a place of political unrest and military action. 2009. 7 hrs, 55 min.

□ DKY 3096 Ghosts of the Bluegrass by James McCormick & Macy Wyatt; narrated by Norma Rash – 100+ stories of haunted places, poltergeists, or death omens from locales across Kentucky. Includes a family's firsthand account of being haunted in their Breckinridge County home for 3 decades in the 19th century. Foreward by William Lynwood Montell. 2009. 5 hrs, 47 min.

□ DKY 3098 The Great Louisville Tornado of 1890 by Keven McQueen; narrated by John Schaaf – On March 27, 1890, a devastating storm system spawned dozens of tornadoes in the Ohio River Valley, killing over 100 people and destroying nearly 800 buildings in Louisville alone. 2010. 4 hrs, 8 min.

□ DKY 3103 Kentucky Folktales: Revealing Stories, Truths, and Outright Lies by Mary Hamilton; narrated by the author – Award-winning collection of 26 folktales, legends, tall tales, and ghost stories. Each story includes commentary on its origin and the storytelling process. 2012. 9 hrs, 22 min.

□ DKY 3107 Nick and Viola: A Kentucky Family Tragedy in the Tobacco Wars (1904-1911) by Laura Muntz Derr; narrated by Norma Rash – In 1904, the American Tobacco Company monopolized the tobacco market and groups began to pool tobacco to drive up the price. Farmers who refused were harassed by the "Night Riders" and other vigilantes. 2013. 3 hrs, 59 min.

□ DKY 3125 Not a Fan: Becoming a Completely Committed Follower of Jesus by Kyle Idleman; narrated by Sally Smotherman – Teaching pastor at Southeast Christian Church in Louisville challenges readers to consider what it really means to call yourself a Christian. 2011. 7 hr, 49 min.

□ DKY 3145 Two Centuries of Black Louisville: A Photographic History by Mervin Aubespain, Kenneth Clay, & J. Blaine Hudson; narrated by Keith Knox – History spanning from 1581, when the Spanish brought the first African slaves to North America, to Louisville's founding in 1778, to the present. Discusses slavery and segregation, as well as community, cultural, and political history. 2011. 14 hrs, 28 min.

□ DKY 3149 Blood Feud: The Hatfields and the McCoys: The Epic Story of Murder and Vengeance by Lisa Alther; narrated by Norma Rash – Describes events from the famed Hatfield-McCoy feud beginning in 1865 and considers the feud's lasting impact on the popular imagination. Bestseller. 2012. 8 hrs, 6 min.

□ DKY 3153 The Cornbread Mafia: A Homegrown Syndicate's Code of Silence and the Biggest Marijuana Bust in American History; by James Higdon; narrated by Lynda Sherrard – The clash between federal and local law enforcement in Marion County continues from Prohibition to 1989 with the confiscation of 200 tons of marijuana. Strong language. 2012. 15 hrs, 8 min.

□ DKY 3176 Madam Belle Brezing by Buddy Thompson; narrated by Barbara Smith – Biography of the infamous madam of a Lexington brothel during the late 1800s and early 1900s. Brezing is supposedly the prototype for Belle Watling in "Gone with the Wind", and her obituary appeared in *Time*. 1983. 5 hrs, 43 min.

FICTION

□ DKY 2936 Kentucky Waltz: Collected Short Fiction by Garry Barker; narrated by Steve Taylor – Collection of 18 award-winning and well-loved stories set in Appalachian Kentucky. "Thanksgiving Visitor" is the semi-autobiographical tale of the author's birth in 1943. 2007. 6 hrs, 14 min.

□ DKY 3021 The Blistered Cat: A Novel by Chuck Bianchi; narrated by Ed Powe – Chuck Moretti spends the summer of '74 working in his father's funeral home in a small, eastern Kentucky mining town. His adventure-filled summer involves both youthful mischief and the tragedy of death. 2006. 9 hrs, 46 min.

□ DKY 3022 Girls Most Likely by Sheila Williams; narrated by Barbara Smith – A humorous look at the lives of Vaughn, Reenie, Susan, and Audrey—African-American women who have maintained friendship since 5th grade, despite having very different personalities and dreams. 2006. 9 hrs, 23 min.

□ DKY 3043 The Tryst by Grace Livingston Hill; narrated Priscilla Barnes – Overhearing an alarming conversation, Patricia flees her family home to become a wealthy woman's companion in New York City. She encounters a childhood friend and must decide to trust him with her true identity. 1921. 9 hrs, 56 min.

□ DKY 3057 Loving Liza Jane: Little Hickman Creek, Book 1 by Sharlene MacLaren; narrated by Wanda Rodgers – 1895. Liza Jane comes to Little Hickman Creek to teach. Widower Benjamin, desperate for help raising his two daughters, considers a mail-order bride—overlooking Liza Jane, the prospective bride God has already sent his way. Some violence. 2007. 10 hrs, 14 min.

□ DKY 3060 The Sisters by Nancy Jensen; narrated by Norma Rash – In 1927 sisters Mabel and Bertie Fisher live with their abusive step-father in Juniper, KY. A drastic miscommunication severs the sisters' relationship and affects their family to the present day. Some descriptions of sex. 2012. 11 hrs, 33 min.

□ DKY 3080 Flowering of the Cumberland by Harriette Simpson Arnow; narrated by Barbara Smith – A novel illustrating the social aspects of pioneer life in the Cumberland Plateau region from 1780-1803, as settlers developed this fertile land between the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers. 1963. 16 hrs, 29 min.

- DKY 3085 Upheaval: Stories by Chris Holbrook; narrated by Alan Adelberg – Collection of 8 interrelated stories examining the hardships of the working poor in an unsentimental portrait of modern-day Appalachia. 2009. 5 hrs, 34 min.
- DKY 3088 Sarah, My Beloved: Little Hickman Creek, Book 2 by Sharlene MacLaren; narrated by Wanda Rodgers – 1896. Mail-order bride Sarah travels from Boston to Little Hickman Creek but finds her prospective husband has already fallen in love—why did God lead her here? 2007. 10 hrs, 31 min.
- DKY 3089 Courting Emma: Little Hickman Creek, Book 3 by Sharlene MacLaren; narrated by Wanda Rodgers – 1896. Emma Browning needs a tough exterior to deal with rough-edged characters in her boardinghouse--except for pastor Jonathan Atkins, who helps her overcome the past. 2008. 11 hrs, 34 min.
- DKY 3090 An Atomic Romance by Bobbie Ann Mason; narrated by Joyce Honaker – Reed Futrell, engineer at a uranium-enrichment plant, has a cerebral romance with biologist Julia, but they react very differently when he is potentially contaminated at work. Some descriptions of sex. 2005. 8 hrs, 3 min.
- DKY 3091 Midnight Magic by Bobbie Ann Mason; narrated by Joyce Honaker – Drawn from previously published collections, these 17 stories center on characters living in small Kentucky towns in the 1970s and 1980s. Selected and introduced by the author. 1998. 9 hrs, 16 min. Also available as BR 12263.
- DKY 3097 Calling Home by Janna McMahan; narrated by Barbara Smith – Virginia's husband runs off with a beautician, leaving her to raise two teens. She must prevent wild daughter Shannon from repeating her own mistakes. Some strong language and some explicit descriptions of sex. 2008. 8 hrs, 38 min.
- DKY 3111 A Deadly Game by Virginia Smith; narrated by Lynda Sherrard – Susanna Trent discovers her boss's dead body, then receives a strange package from him filled with tokens and clues. Wealthy executive Jack Townsend can help, but Susanna struggles to trust him. 2011. 5 hrs, 50 min.
- DKY 3117 Sweeping Up Glass by Carolyn Wall; narrated by Barbara Smith – Olivia Harker Cross works hard to protect her home and family in fictional Pope County, KY, during the Depression. She confronts her mother's mental illness and wolf hunters on Big Foley Mountain. Some strong language, some explicit descriptions of sex, and violence. Contains racial slurs. 2009. 7 hrs, 38 min.
- DKY 3127 The Self-Improvement Book Club Murder by Todd Wright; narrated by Barbara Smith – With her dying breath, a socialite implicates the members of a book club in her murder. Detectives Bookman and Berg suspect the club's selections contain clues to solve the case. 2010. 4 hrs, 28 min.
- DKY 3128 Murder at the High School Reunion: A Lt. Dekker-Sgt. Murdock Mystery, Book 5 by Steve Demaree; narrated by Richard Crane – Two people turn

up missing after a local high school reunion. Did they run off together, or were they murdered? Dekker and Murdock investigate. 2011. 8 hrs, 36 min.

□ DKY 3144 The Silver Thread: Chronicles of the Golden Frontier, Book 4 by Gilbert Morris and J. Landon Ferguson; narrated by Jean Anne Webb – Grant Despain hunts through Colorado boomtowns for his sister Abby, who goes missing while searching for her rogue beau, Billy Rogers. 2000. 9 hrs, 42 min.

□ DKY 3150 The Countertenor Wore Garlic: A Liturgical Mystery, Book 9 by Mark Schweizer; narrated by Bill Van Arsdall – St. Germaine celebrates Halloween with a carnival--complete with zombies, vampires and a real dead body for police chief Hayden Konig to investigate. 2011. 6 hrs, 10 min.

□ DKY 3155 Death By Bridle: A Josiah Reynolds Mystery by Abigail Keam; narrated by Janet Kinstle – Josiah investigates the murder of horseman Arthur Aaron Greene III with a young boy as the only witness. She uncovers decades-old lies of her friend, Lady Elsmere. Some strong language. 2012. 6 hrs, 7 min.

□ DKY 3160 The Queen of Kentucky by Alecia Whitaker; narrated by Norma Rash – 14-year-old farm-girl Ricki Jo Winstead reinvents herself as “Ericka” to become popular in high school. But when her best friend, Luke, experiences a serious incident, she learns the importance of friendship. 2012. 8 hrs, 43 min.

□ DKY 3161 The Christmas Cantata: A St. Germaine Christmas Entertainment by Mark Schweizer; narrated by Bill Van Arsdall – The lead-up to Christmas is usually a time of goodwill, but the town residents are feeling crabby until a long-lost cantata spurs a special Christmas Eve performance. 2011. 3 hrs, 24 min.

□ DKY 3164 Kinfolks: The Wilgus Stories by Gurney Norman; narrated by Marvin Weinberger – A series of ten short stories portraying young Wilgus Collier's growth to early manhood in Eastern Kentucky after WWII. Strong language. Contains racial slurs. 1977. 2 hours, 54 minutes.

□ DKY 3174 Hunter's Horn by Harriette Simpson Arnow; narrated by Mary Vaughn – Nunn Ballew's life is consumed by hunting "King Devil," a wily fox that torments his Eastern Kentucky valley. While his family suffers due to his obsession, the entire community must also contend with encroaching changes in 1930s Appalachia. Some strong language. 1949. 25 hours, 53 minutes.

□ DKY 3186 River of Earth by James Still; narrated by Marvin Weinberger – Seen through the eyes of a young boy, this seminal novel chronicles his family's struggle to make a living after the local mine closes. First published in 1940. Foreword by Dean Cadle. 1978. 6 hrs, 21 min.

□ DKY 3189 The Trail of the Lonesome Pine by John Fox, Jr.; narrated by Marvin Weinberger – Originally published in 1908, this classic romance stars a mountain heroine and a northern engineer pulled apart by feuding and economic upheaval near Big Stone Gap. Some violence. 1984. 11 hrs, 42 min.

Upcoming KTBL/State Government Holidays

September 1 – Labor Day
November 11 – Veterans Day
November 27-28 – Thanksgiving

December 25-26 – Christmas
January 1-2 – New Year's

KTBL Contact Information

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Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30 ET

<p>This newsletter is available in large-print, Braille, audio, and e-mail formats.</p>

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